

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
January 11, 2023
7:00 PM**

Present:

H. Charles Wilson III, Chairman
Richard Marino, Vice Chairman
Laura Smith, Secretary
Kristin Warner, Treasurer
Joyce F. Snyder, Asst. Treasurer/Asst. Secretary

Staff:

David G. Kraynik, Township Manager
Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor
Mary Stover, Township Engineer
Niral Modi, IT Staff

Present Remotely:

Colleen Ehrle, Director of Administration

Absent:

Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Awards & Recognition

Police Lieutenant Promotion & Swearing-in – Geoffrey Wainwright

Jeffrey Kratz recently retired as Lieutenant of Towamencin's Police Department, creating an opportunity to promote one of the department's sergeants. Unable to attend the meeting in person, Chief Troxel recorded his remarks, where he reviewed Geoffrey Wainwright's background.

Geoffrey Wainwright began his career with the Towamencin Township Police Department in 1995, as a patrol officer. In 2008, he was promoted to patrol sergeant. In 1997 Geoff became a department trainer, earning instructor certifications in firearms, defensive tactics, less-lethal systems, active shooter response, and de-escalation tactics. He currently serves as the department's training coordinator. He also served on the regional SWAT team as an entry operator from 2000-2016, and was one of the department's field training officers, where he was responsible for the initial training of newly hired officers when they start in patrol.

Chairman Wilson administered the oath to Geoffrey Wainwright, with his family by his side. The Board congratulated Lt. Wainwright on his promotion.

Opening Comments

Chairman Wilson made the following announcements:

- The meeting is being held in person at the Township's Meeting Hall and also provided via Zoom for residents unable to attend in person. Public comments submitted by 4:30 pm on the meeting day would be read at the start of the meeting.
- The Board met in Executive Session before the meeting to discuss personnel matters.
- The Township's Planning Commission continues to work with consultant, Simone Collins, on Connectivity Study. The next Connectivity Study Public Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 9, at 7 pm, in the Meeting Hall. As part of the study, an online survey is available to collect resident feedback and can be accessed from the Township's website.

Public Comments

Resident and Government Study Commission (GSC) member Jenn Foster, commented she and a few Commission members recently had a positive meeting with Township Manager David Kraynik and Township Solicitor Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq. She also described a positive experience working with Colleen Ehrle, Director of Administration, in addressing GSC matters. Ms. Foster expressed concern with the agenda item proposing that the Township Solicitor attend the GSC meetings when the Commission would have their Solicitor present at these meetings. She felt this was an unnecessary added expense to pass on to taxpayers.

Chairman Wilson responded the rationale that the Solicitor should attend to keep informed with the progress of the Commission. Robert J. Iannozzi, Jr., Esq. shared his hourly rate of \$160, adding the Township is responsible for the cost and coordination of the GSC meetings.

Resident and Government Study Commission (GSC) member Kofi Osei, noted he had not heard back about his volunteer application, submitted last year, to serve on an advisory committee, adding he was still interested in serving. He found it positive that the Township would be pursuing an update to its Comprehensive Plan, while the Government Study is underway. He recommended two DCED grant sources to assist in funding the Comprehensive Plan update – the Strategic Management Planning Program and Municipal Assist Program.

Resident Joe Silverman shared pictures he recently took with the Board of the Forty Foot Road pedestrian bridge where he referenced rust stains and potential leak sites where sealant material was not observed. Supervisor Marino noted he would share his pictures with Township staff.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board approved the December 28, 2022 minutes.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Zoning, Subdivision and Land Development

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Proposal to Prepare Grant Application - Grist Mill Park Improvements

Simone Collins Landscape Architecture, the Township’s planning consultant, has submitted a proposal to prepare a grant application to Montgomery County through their MONTCO 2040 grants program for construction funds for improvements to Grist Mill Park. In 2021, the Township completed a Township Parks and Trails Evaluation that included the improvements at each park. Grist Mill Park was a high priority within the park system based on the park’s existing conditions and substantial growth in this part of the Township. Grist Mill Phase 1 improvements include: a pavilion, playground, 2 basketball courts, 4 pickleball courts, and a perimeter trail.

The grant application period is open and grant applications are due on March 1, 2023. The application will seek \$200,000, the maximum amount for the grant. The grant requires a 20% Township match. The Township was previously awarded a \$250,000 DCNR grant for this project. Should the MONTCO 2040 be awarded, \$450,000 will be available to fund the project, which has a \$500,000 budget. The proposed grant preparation fee total is \$2,100.00. Labor cost for the application is a lump sum fee of \$2,000.00, with reimbursable costs not to exceed \$100.00.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Snyder, the Board approved the proposal to prepare the MONTCO 2040 grant application - Grist Mill Park Improvements.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Government Study Commission Budget Presentation

The Township’s new Government Study Commission is required to present their proposed 2023 budget to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Martin Cohen, Commission Treasurer, presented the Government Study Commission’s proposed 2023 budget to the Board of Supervisors. The budget presented totaled \$37,136.86, which was broken down by expense categories: solicitor, mailings, court recorder, website, zoom, legal notices, townhall, and printing.

Chairman Wilson complimented Mr. Cohen's presentation, finding it detailed and reasonable.

Resident Kris Kazmar questioned the methodology and condensed approach of the Commission's Government Study. Kofi Osei, Government Study Commission Chairman, replied the study would be short, but would meet the regulations of the PA Home Rule Charter guidelines. He encouraged those with similar questions to attend the Commission's meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Warner, the Board accepted the Government Study Commission's proposed budget as presented.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Authorization to Prepare & Distribute RFP - Update of Comprehensive Plan

The Township's last Comprehensive Plan was adopted on February 9, 1989. Due to the duration since the last plan and subsequent growth during this period, it is appropriate to update the plan. An update will be used to manage the Township's future growth and preservation over the next 10 to 15 years. It will enable the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission and citizens to review current issues and proposals against a clear representation of what has been decided as the most desirable plan for future development and the future character of the Township, with respect to land use, community facilities and road improvements. Over the last year, the Board of Supervisors expressed their interest to seek an update to the Comprehensive Plan.

On a motion by Supervisor Snyder, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board authorized preparing and distributing a request for proposals to update the Township's Comprehensive Plan.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Authorization for Solicitor to Attend Government Study Commission Meetings

The Government Study Commission announced their 2023 meeting schedule to include the first and third Wednesdays of each month, ending in March. At the direction of the Board, the Township Solicitor may attend these meetings, to represent the Board of Supervisors.

On a motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Marino, the Board authorized the Solicitor to attend the Government Study Commission Meetings.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner,

Voting No: Joyce F. Snyder
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

Volunteer Committee Appointments

Several residents submitted applications expressing their interest to serve on the Township's various volunteer committees. The Board considered the following volunteer committee appointments:

- Robert DeHaven - Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee, term to expire December 31, 2025
- Patrick McKeever - Technology Assessment and Innovation Committee, term to expire December 31, 2025
- Michael Main - Planning Commission, term to expire December 31, 2023.

On a motion by Supervisor Marino, seconded by Supervisor Smith, the Board approved the noted appointments.

Voting Yes: H. Charles Wilson, III, Richard Marino, Laura Smith, Kristin Warner, Joyce F. Snyder

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Colleen Ehrle
Director of Administration